

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Original) A method of distributing high-speed information packets to at least one subscriber unit, each information packet associated with an information channel, the method comprising:

routing each information packet through a distributed network of routing elements, each routing element in wireless communication with at least one other routing element in the network of routing elements;

receiving each information packet in a distribution center in communication with the distributed network of routing elements; and

forwarding each information packet to each subscriber unit in communication with the distribution center and requesting the information channel of which the information packet is associated.

11. (Original) A method of distributing high-speed information packets to at least one subscriber unit as in claim 10 wherein the information packets comprise video information.

12. (Original) A method of distributing high-speed information packets to at least one subscriber unit as in claim 10 wherein routing each information packet through a distributed network of routing elements comprises:

routing each information packet through a distributed network of distribution points; and

transmitting each information packet to an access point operative to communicate with a plurality of subscriber units.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of distributing high-speed information packets to at least one subscriber unit as in claim 12 wherein at least one distribution point ~~is functioning~~ functions as the distribution center.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of distributing high-speed information packets to at least one subscriber unit as in claim 12 wherein at least one access point ~~is functioning~~ functions as the distribution center.

15. (Original) A method of distributing high-speed information packets to at least one subscriber unit as in claim 10 further comprising:

receiving a request from a subscriber unit to access an information channel;
requesting transmission of the requested information channel if no other subscriber unit is receiving the requested information channel; and
noting that the requesting subscriber unit is receiving the requested information channel.

16. (Original) A method of distributing high-speed information packets to at least one subscriber unit as in claim 15 wherein receiving a request from a subscriber unit comprises determining that the requesting subscriber unit is within the coverage area of a distribution center.

17. (Original) A method of distributing high-speed information packets to at least one subscriber unit as in claim 15 wherein receiving a request from a subscriber unit comprises receiving a message from a subscriber unit.

18. (Original) A method of distributing high-speed information packets to at least one subscriber unit as in claim 15 further comprising transmitting a dummy address as the destination for the requested transmission of the requested information channel.

19. (Original) A method of distributing high-speed information packets to at least one subscriber unit as in claim 15 further comprising:

determining that a subscriber unit is no longer accessing the information channel;

canceling transmission of the information channel if no other subscriber unit is receiving the information channel; and

noting that the subscriber unit is no longer receiving the information channel.

20. (Original) A system for providing high-speed packetized information comprising a distributed routing network, the distributed routing network comprising a plurality of distribution points, each distribution point in the plurality of distribution points in radio contact with at least one other distribution point in the plurality of distribution points, at least one of the plurality of distribution points comprising at least one host digital terminal (HDT) for converting high-speed information packets to an optical format and forwarding the information packets to subscriber units.

21. (Original) A system for providing high-speed packetized information as in claim 20 wherein at least one subscriber unit is operative to receive information packets in an optical format.

22. (Original) A system for providing high-speed packetized information as in claim 20 further comprising at least one access point in communication with the at least one HDT, the access point operative to convert information packets in an optical format into a format compatible with copper cabling.

23. (Original) A system for providing high-speed packetized information as in claim 22 wherein at least one subscriber unit is in communication with the at least one access point through a network interface device.

24. (Original) A system for providing high-speed packetized information as in claim 22 wherein at least one access point functions as a video distribution center.

25. (Original) A system for providing high-speed packetized information as in claim 20 wherein high-speed packetized information is provided through a VDSL service.

26. (Original) A system for providing high-speed packetized information as in claim 20 wherein high-speed information includes video information.

27. (Original) A system for providing high-speed packetized information as in claim 20 wherein at least one distribution point functions as a video distribution center.

28. (Original) A system for providing packetized video information to a plurality of subscriber units comprising a distributed routing network, the distributed routing network comprising a plurality of distribution points, each distribution point in the plurality of distribution points in radio contact with at least one other distribution point in the plurality of distribution points, at least one of the plurality of distribution points functioning as a video distribution center.

29. (Original) A system for providing packetized video information to a plurality of subscriber units as in claim 28 wherein at least one of the distribution points is operative to receive requests for video content from at least one subscriber unit and forward those requests to at least one video supplier.

30. (Original) A system for providing packetized video information to a plurality of subscriber units as in claim 28 wherein at least one video distribution center forwards video information packets comprising a video channel to each subscriber unit served by the video distribution center requesting the video channel.

31. (Original) A system for providing packetized video information to a plurality of subscriber units comprising:

a distributed routing network, the distributed routing network comprising a plurality of distribution points, each distribution point in the plurality of distribution points in radio contact with at least one other distribution point in the plurality of distribution points; and

at least one access point in communication with the distributed routing network functioning as a video distribution center.

32. (Original) A system for providing packetized video information to a plurality of subscriber units as in claim 31 wherein the at least one access point is operative to receive requests for video content from at least one subscriber unit and forward those requests to at least one video supplier.

33. (Original) A system for providing packetized video information to a plurality of subscriber units as in claim 31 wherein the at least one access point replicates video information packets comprising a video channel for each of a plurality of subscriber units requesting the video channel.

34. (Original) A system for providing packetized video information to a plurality of subscriber units as in claim 31 wherein at least one access point is operative to

receive a request to access a video channel from a subscriber unit;

determine if the requested video channel is currently being accessed by another subscriber unit served by the access point; and

if the requested video channel is not currently being accessed by another subscriber unit served by the access point, forwarding the request to a video supplier.

35. (Original) A system for providing packetized video information to a plurality of subscriber units as in claim 34 wherein each of the at least one access point is further operative to

receive a video information packet from at least one video supplier;

determine if the received video packet corresponds to a video channel requested by more than one subscriber unit; and

forward the video packet to each subscriber unit requesting the video channel.

36. (Original) A system for distributing high-speed information packets to at least one subscriber unit, each information packet associated with an information channel, the system comprising:

a distributed network of routing elements for routing each information packet, each routing element in wireless communication with at least one other routing element in the network of routing elements; and

at least one distribution center in communication with the distributed network of routing elements and with at least one subscriber unit, each distribution center forwarding each information packet to each subscriber unit requesting the information channel associated with each information packet.

37. (Original) A system for distributing high-speed information packets to at least one subscriber unit as in claim 36 wherein the information packets comprise video information.

38. (Original) A system for distributing high-speed information packets to at least one subscriber unit as in claim 36 wherein the distributed network of routing elements comprises:

a distributed network of distribution points operative to route each information packet; and

at least one access point operative to communicate with a plurality of subscriber units.

39. (Original) A system for distributing high-speed information packets to at least one subscriber unit as in claim 38 wherein at least one distribution point functions as the distribution center.

40. (Original) A system for distributing high-speed information packets to at least one subscriber unit as in claim 38 wherein at least one access point functions as the distribution center.

41. (Original) A system for distributing high-speed information packets to at least one subscriber unit as in claim 36 wherein the at least one distribution center receives a request from a subscriber unit to access an information channel and requests transmission of the requested information channel if no other subscriber unit is receiving the requested information channel.

42. (Original) A system for distributing high-speed information packets to at least one subscriber unit as in claim 41 wherein at least one distribution center receives a request from a subscriber unit based on a determination that the requesting subscriber unit is within the coverage area of the at least one distribution center.

43. (Original) A system for distributing high-speed information packets to at least one subscriber unit as in claim 41 wherein at least one distribution center receives a request from a subscriber unit based on a message from a subscriber unit.

44. (Original) A system for distributing high-speed information packets to at least one subscriber unit as in claim 41 wherein at least one distribution center further transmits a dummy address as the destination for the requested transmission of the requested information channel.

45. (Original) A system for distributing high-speed information packets to at least one subscriber unit as in claim 41 wherein at least one distribution center notes that the requesting subscriber unit is receiving the requested information channel.

46. (Original) A system for distributing high-speed information packets to at least one subscriber unit as in claim 41 wherein at least one distribution center determines that

a subscriber unit is no longer accessing the information channel and cancels transmission of the information channel if no other subscriber unit is receiving the information channel.